232

A Batchelers Resolution. 11

OR

Haue among you now, Widowes or Maydes,
For I come a woing as Fancie perswades.
I must haue a Wife, be she Older or Younger,
For I cannot, nor will not lye alone any longer.

To the tune of, The Blazing Torch.

A Batchelour I haue bene long,
and had no minde to marry,
But now I finde it pids me wrong
that I so long did tarry.
Therefore I will a woing ride,
there's many maried younger,
Where shall I goe to take a Bride?
Ile lye alone no longer.

So many sinnes are incident
vnto a single life,
That I all danger to preuent
with speede will take a Wife:
If I with Women chance to drinke
I'me call'd a Dutton-monger,
But now Ile stop their mouthes I thinke
And lye alone no longer.

O Fate send me a handsome Lasse
that I can fancy well,
For Portion Ile not greatly passe,
though Money beares the bell.
Loue now adayes with Gold is bought
but I'me no Moneymonger.
Giue mee a Wife, though shee's worth nought
Ile lye alone no longer.

Yet if the chance to proue a Slut,
a Scold, or else a Whore,
That could not chuse but be a cut,
and driue me very sore,
A Slut would make me loath my meate
were I halfe dead with hunger,
But I must leaue this fond conceate,
And lye alone no longer.

What if she should a Wanton be,
and shake my forehead ake?
Oh that would be a griefe to me,
such wrongs few men will take,
For Iealousie is of such force,
no passion can be stronger,
But be she better, be she worse,
Ile lye alone no longer.

If Iealous she shall be of me,
that were as great a spight,
Then should we seldome quiet be,
but quarrell day and night,
She'd thinke my loue from her did range
though I were meant to wrong her,
Yet this shall not my humour change,
Ile lye alone no longer.

What shall I doe to chuse a wife
in euery thing complete:
Should I in searching spend my life,
t'would proue a taske to great,
No Man can finde a Woman so,
the older nor the younger,
Ile take my chance as others doe,
And lye alone no longer.

Yet will I chuse the best I can,
Ioue send me luck in chusing,
And crane the counsell of some man
whose counsels worth the vsing:
If she proue good I shall be glad,
and vow Ile neuer wrong her,
Yet am resolued good or bad
To lye alone no longer.

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The second Part. To the same tune.

I Le be contented with my lot,
[illegible] euer it befall,
Yet if she proue a drunken sot,
[illegible] ill grieue my worst of all,
Then I my selfe must drinke small-beare,
and she must drinke the stronger,
Though 'a cost me twenty pounds a peare,
Ile ly[illegible] alone no longer.

If that chance to proue a Scould,
her tongue will braue my strife,
Then I must looke to be contrould,
and curbed by my Wife:
A Scould of women is the worst,
shele force a man to wrong her:
Therefore Ile try all humors first,
And lye alone no longer.

This is [illegible] be onely time I know,
for Yo[illegible]ng men to get Wiues,
Then say [illegible] that Maides and Widowes now
for [illegible]ands daily striues,
Therefore I shall be quickly sped,
[illegible] for Vnsbands hunger,
With any [illegible]an theyle quickly wed,
Theyle l[illegible]ye alone no longer.

Some men perhaps may wonder, why
my minde runnes so on Marriage,
To him that askes me, I reply,
'tis for my honest carriage:
For liue a young man here so chaste,
he's counted a Whoremonger:
Therefore Ile get a Wife in haste,
And lye alone no longer.

We[illegible]chee a [illegible]iddow or a Mayde,
I doe no[illegible]t greatly passe,
A withered [illegible]crone whose blood's decayde,
or a youn[illegible]g lusty Lasse:
One that is [illegible]rich, or one that's [illegible]poore,
a feeble, [illegible]a stronger:
A honest [illegible]woman, or a whore,
Ile ly[illegible]e alo[illegible]ne no longer.

Although my Wife be none oth best,
yet I must be content:
I shall as well speede as the rest,
which 'bout this action went:
I am not first that matched ill,
therefore it is no wonder:
Ile keepe my resolution still,
And lye alone no longer.

We[illegible]ll per[illegible]chance I [illegible]may voice may haue
a Mayde I [illegible]would [illegible]my wife,
I w[illegible]ould not [illegible]be a Widowes slaue,
I [illegible]de rather [illegible]lose my life:
If I [illegible]should wed a Widow old,
I[illegible] no better take a younger,
For [illegible] Widowes will not be contrould,
Yet I can stay no longer.

I trust I shall with one be sped,
that doth deserue my loue:
If I with such a Woman wed,
I sweare by mighty Ioue,
That ere she any thing should [illegible]
Ile suffer colde and hunger:
Though she had scant cloathes
Ide lye alone no longer.

If [illegible]she should haue a stinking breath
I [illegible]ne[illegible]er should abide her,
For [illegible]that to me is worse then death,
I had [illegible]rather touch a Spider:
But that [illegible]s a fault may soone be smelt,
sir Aiax [illegible]smels no stronger:
Before I'le take one with such fault,
Ile lye [illegible]alone yet longer.

You that my resolut[illegible]on bear
iudge whether [illegible] deserue
To haue a W[illegible]ife that loue
and wor[illegible]d my will obs[illegible]
Were [illegible]d my will obs[illegible]
an[illegible]e a Widdow or a
[illegible] Elder, or a Younger:
[illegible] Wedding should not be
[illegible] no longe